



One Voice

Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear...

-1 Chronicles 28:20

The world is changing around us. Gas is more than \$4/gallon, our utility bills are skyrocketing, family members, neighbors and friends are being laid off. The National Consumer Confidence economic indicator is at its fifth-lowest rating in 92 years! Even the former president from '24' (my favorite t.v. show) is telling us in insurance commercials that things aren't as easy as they used to be. Unfortunately, the same is true for your county government. As you know well, declining property values and tax reforms via Amendment One have forced the county to reduce staffing by 30%, to 2000 - 2001 levels. As a result, the services from many of our county departments will be reduced sharply or eliminated wholly.

While not pleasant, I believe the Board, and all of our employees have been strong and courageous during these difficult times. I want to thank the 98 members of our county family who together served more than 1,134 years as trustees of our community parks, libraries, roads and the other 26 departments that make up St. Lucie County.

As difficult as things are right now, we must remain hopeful that our strength and courage as a community will make us stronger. Sooner, rather than later, we will be able to say in the words of Maya Angelou's poem, *On the Pulse of Morning*:

Here on the pulse of this new day,
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply...with hope
Good morning.



Spotlight on: SLC's New Runway



Work is well under way on a brand **new runway** at the **St. Lucie County International Airport**. The majority of the \$15.3 million project is being funded through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation. St. Lucie County Commissioners began lobbying for federal money for this project back in 2002. The new 4,000ft. by 75ft. runway will help separate slower training traffic from faster business aircraft. It will also keep training activity and noise away from residential communities to the east of the airport. The runway is scheduled to be complete by Summer 2009.



The "Green" Mile

Commissioner Smith was one of the first local leaders to tout the importance of living more sustainably. This month, he will be leading by example in the quest to "go green." On Thursday, August 28th, Commissioner Smith will be parking his car and using public transportation to get to his daily appointments. His day will begin when he catches the bus outside of his home in Fort Pierce and travels south for office hours in Port St. Lucie (see article below.) He'll be hitching a ride on the bus again to meet up with Martin County Commission Chairman Doug Smith for lunch, and then the bus will bring him back home at the end of the day. Taking the bus is just one of the many ways you can conserve energy and live more sustainably. To find out more about the Treasure Coast Connector and the available routes, pick-up times and locations, visit www.treasurecoastconnector.com or call (772) 464-8878.



Office Hours

Do you have an issue or concern that you'd like to discuss with one of your county commissioners, but don't have the time to take a trip to Ft. Pierce to discuss it? In an effort to accommodate his constituents in the southern part of the county, Commissioner Smith will be holding office hours in Port St. Lucie on Thursday, August 28th from 10:00a.m.—Noon in the Veteran's Services Conference Room.

For more information, or to make an appointment, please contact Carin at carins@stlucieco.gov or (772) 462-1410.

Skate Park Open!



St. Lucie County now has 15,000 square feet of pure fun! The Lawnwood Skate Park, located on Virginia Avenue next to Lawnwood Stadium, is officially open to the public—and it's FREE! The \$500,000 plaza-style park features banks, a mini-bowl, snake run, whale tail and hand-rails. To find out more, visit www.stlucieco.gov/parks/skatepark.htm.



Green Expo



GO GREEN at the 1st Annual Treasure Coast Green Expo! Head to the **Treasure Coast Square Mall** on **August 16th and 17th** and be inundated with all the eco-friendly info you can handle. Browse over forty booths and quiz local vendors on their green products—find out how they can help you live more sustainably. Also enjoy a children's area and Tax-Free Back to School weekend shopping! See you there!

Green Conference—Save the Date

Grab a pen and mark your calendars because you don't want to miss out on the 2nd Annual **Treasure Coast Green Conference** on **October 23rd** from 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. at the **Havert L. Fenn Center in Fort Pierce**. Last year's conference was a huge success, and this year's should prove to be bigger and better! Be inspired with innovative project ideas, and learn how sustainable development can be profitable! Register now at www.treasurecoastgreen.com. The conference fee is \$65 per person. For more information, email info@treasurecoastgreen.com or call (321) 971-1960. Sponsorship opportunities are still available—call today!



Commissioner Joe Smith greets the audience at the 2007 Treasure Coast Green Conference, which attracted 450 participants from 49 cities and 201 organizations.

Get out and VOTE!



The future of our county and our country is in your hands...that is, if you vote! On August 26th, voters head to the polls for the primary election. **If you are not registered to vote, you have until July 28th** to submit your voter registration to the Supervisor of Elections Office. For more information on candidates, voter registration and polling locations visit www.slcelections.com or call (772) 462-1500.

Graffiti Hotline

St. Lucie County now has a number for you to call to report code issues such as graffiti and noise violations. Program this number into your cell phone and use it the next time you see graffiti!

(772) 370-2545

Meeting Schedules

County Commission:

6p - 1st/3rd Tues of every month
9a - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
Administration Bldg.
3rd Floor
2300 Virginia Ave
(Comcast Cable Channel 21)

Ft. Pierce City Commission:

7p - 1st/3rd Mon of every month
City Hall
100 North US 1
(Comcast Cable Channel 27)

School Board:

6p - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
School Board Office
4204 Okeechobee Rd.

Lincoln Park Business Assoc.:

7p - 2nd Wed of every month
Willie B. Ellis Police Substation
1220 Avenue D

Important Numbers

Commissioner Joe Smith
(772) 462-1410
carins@stlucieco.gov

Ft. Pierce City Hall
(772) 460-2200

Port St. Lucie City Hall
(772) 871-5159

SLC School Board Office
(772) 429-3600

State Representative
Richard Machek
(772) 595-1391

State Senator
Ken Pruitt
(772) 344-1140

Governor Charlie Crist
(850) 488-7146

US Representative
Alcee Hastings
(202) 225-1313

US Senator
Bill Nelson
(202) 224-5274

US Senator
Mel Martinez
(202) 224-3041

The White House
(202) 456-1414

Questions or comments about our newsletter?

Do you have an issue you'd like for us to discuss in the next newsletter?

Maybe an event you would like announced to the community? Call or email Carin: 462-1410, carins@stlucieco.gov